



The Heineken Regatta continues with a fun afternoon for amateurs.

The 15th Annual Heineken Regatta is in full swing, and one of the most entertaining events took place on Tuesday afternoon, as local wannabe sailors, many total novices, took to the helms of the racing cats. An often-riotous tradition, the afternoon race has the local VIP's paired with a trained contender, and afterwards, the consumption of quite a few Heinekens is a requirement.

This year a record seventeen teams took to the waves, their tee shirts often declaring their company affiliation.

Patrick Melchior, General Manager of Heineken, and not a newcomer to the VIP race, was paired with Gerard Loos, a fanatical competitor, to take the first place "trophy." Patrick confessed, "It was great, but my skipper made me work hard." Jean Louis Flier and Six van Leeuwen of the Aruba Tourism Office, Holland, took second place on their F18 Capricorn. They were tied with third place winners John Moret and Marco van Buuren of Zwitserleven, title sponsor of the Round Texel Race on a Tornado, but they took second by the judges' decision.

The awards ceremony took place just after sunset, and all participants received a beautiful souvenir regatta shirt, with medals for the top five and impromptu trophies consisting of Heineken bottles for the top three teams. Afterwards, the sailors and families enjoyed a Pirate's Party at the Pelican Nest Restaurant on the Pelican dock next to the Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort, host hotel to the event.

The races will continue on Thursday and Friday, with the traditional final awards dinner at MooMba Beach Bar and Restaurant.

In addition to the head sponsors Heineken and Aruba Tourism Authority, the Aruba Heineken Catamaran Regatta is sponsored by Hapag Lloyd, TNG Swiss Watches, KLM, Holiday Inn, Does & Cadushi, Magic Marine, Coca Cola, Gaastra, AWA, Anthony Veder & Co, Aruba Watersports Center, Kodak, Palm Tours, Pelican Watersports, Seaworld Explorer and Aruba Bank.